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U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/516,467	Marco Maritan	IT20020014

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
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PCT/EP03/03723

I.A. FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE
04/10/2003	05/16/2002

173  
WHIRLPOOL PATENTS COMPANY - MD 0750  
500 RENAISSANCE DRIVE - SUITE 102  
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

CONFIRMATION NO. 5706

371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER



\*OC000000017785695\*

Date Mailed: 01/05/2006

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.495**

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

<u>10/24/2005</u>	<u>10/24/2005</u>
DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS	DATE OF COMPLETION OF ALL 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE " FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- Copy of the International Application filed on 12/02/2004
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 12/02/2004
- Copy of IPE Report filed on 12/02/2004
- Preliminary Amendments filed on 02/25/2005
- Oath or Declaration filed on 10/24/2005
- U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 12/02/2004
- Priority Documents filed on 12/02/2004
- Power of Attorney filed on 10/24/2005

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

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WINSTON M ALVARADO

Telephone: (703) 308-9140 EXT 206

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FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)